

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS



**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE** — Bobbi Leath (fourth from left) is congratulated on her Sybil Bentley Dove national award as the outstanding Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC) graduate by (from left) Tammy Anderson, missions consultant, Mississippi WMU; Debbie Crawley and Velvet Johnson, site coordinators, CWJC/Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC) of Rankin County; Mary Callahan, executive director, Rankin County CWJC/CMJC; and Sandra Nash, state CWJC/CMJC coordinator, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. (WMU photo)

## Mississippian gains national recognition

**BIRMINGHAM, AL. (Special)** — Bobbi Leath is one step closer to realizing her dream of opening a day care for children with special needs, thanks to her participation in Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) of Rankin County.

CWJC and Christian Men's

Job Corps (CMJC) are programs of the national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to help women and men change their lives for the better by empowering them with biblical nourishment, a mentor for encouragement and accountability, and training opportunities

to help them attain education, gainful employment, and self-sufficiency.

The two programs are administered in Mississippi by the state WMU office and funded in

see CWJC on p. 6

## Madison church to play host to church growth conference

**ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)** — Just over 70% of churches are plateaued or declining in membership in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to North American Mission Board statistics (NAMB). In response, NAMB is working with state Baptist conventions to launch a series of Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conferences in 2012-2013.

Broadmoor Church in Madison will host one of the conferences, on Feb. 7.

Former Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt, pastor of the Atlanta-area First Church Woodstock, kicked off the first revitalization conference at Northside Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Sept. 20.

Representing NAMB, Hunt will conduct revitalization conferences in eight states. He said church revitalization is his personal passion along with church planting, noting, "As D.L. Moody said, unless we stab American cities in the heart with the Gospel, we will lose this country. With NAMB's help, we want to help churches revitalize."

Send North America Church Growth and Revi-

talization conferences are scheduled:

- Nov. 1 at Living Hope Church in Bowling Green, Ky.
- Dec. 6 at the Georgia Baptist Convention in Duluth, Ga.
- Jan. 29 at First Church in Brandon, Fla.
- Feb. 7, Broadmoor Church in Madison, Ms.
- Feb. 28, Colonial Heights Church in Colonial Heights, Va.
- April 25, Mount Vernon Church in Raleigh, N.C.
- May 23, White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro, S.C.

Each conference, co-sponsored by NAMB and the state convention, runs from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., with final registration at 8 a.m. The cost is \$30 and includes registration, conference materials, lunch, refreshments, and a \$15 Life-Way gift card.

To learn more about church revitalization or to attend a Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference, visit <http://namb.net/revitalization>. E-mail [revitalization@namb.net](mailto:revitalization@namb.net). Telephone: (770) 410-6305.

## Page: CP increase may reflect better days ahead

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — The Cooperative Program (CP) ended its fiscal year three percent over budget and at 99.4% of last year's contributions.

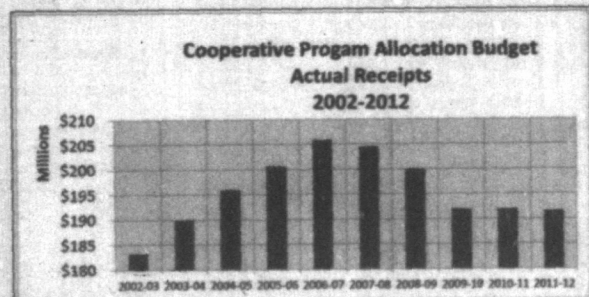
Church giving, hopefully has dipped as low as it will from the U.S. economic downturn and may be ready to stabilize or climb, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee (EC) President Frank Page said.

"Those who research these things tell us that church giving usually lags one to two years behind the general economy," Page said. "God's people are not immune from the hardships associated with this life. Our Lord reminded us, 'He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust' (Matthew 5:45)."

"It should come as no surprise, then, that church giving has been deeply affected by the nation's four-year recession. With that in mind, the Executive Committee sought to achieve a balance between faith and realism when it set this past year's budget."

The SBC received \$191,678,994 in CP gifts during the fiscal year Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 30, 2012, or \$199,651 less than the \$191,878,645 received during the last fiscal year. This year's giving is \$5,678,994 above the budget goal of \$186,000,000.

"We finished three percent ahead of our budgeted goal and only slightly under last year's CP total. This is hallelujah territory! To God be the glory," Page said. "Based on our approved CP allocation budget goal, TMB will receive 51% of the \$5.6 million overage, providing ad-



ditional resources for reaching the nations with the Gospel. Our other ministry entities will receive their allocated portions of the overage as well, with the overage portion coming to the EC falling to only 2.4%."

The CP is a channel of giving, begun in 1925, through which a local church can contribute to the various ministries of its state convention and the missions and ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention

see CP on p. 7

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Closing in on a big win

The number of Americans who claim no religious affiliation is climbing at a steady pace, and the rise is expected to continue well into the future.

That's the conclusion that can be drawn from a just-released study conducted by the Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life along with the Public Broadcasting System's Religion and Ethics Newsweekly.

"The continued growth of the religiously unaffiliated is one of several indicators suggesting that the U.S. public gradually may be growing less religious. To be sure, the United States remains a highly religious country — particularly by comparison with other advanced industrial democracies — and some measures of religious commitment in America have held remarkably steady over the years. The number of Americans who currently say religion is very important in their lives (58%), for instance, is little changed since 2007 (61%) and is far higher than in Britain (17%), France (13%), Germany (21%) or Spain (22%)," the study reports.

"But on some other key measures, there is evidence of a gradual decline in religious commitment. In 2003, for instance, 25% of U.S. adults indicated they seldom or never attend religious services. By 2012, that number had ticked up 4 points, to 29%," the study points out — and that's not all the bad news.

In addition, the percentage of Americans who say the Bible should be taken literally has fallen in Gallup polls from an average of about 38% of the public in the late 1970s and early 1980s to an average of 31% since," the study states.

Those of us who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ and His Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) should find this information nothing short of alarming. It means that at the same time we are striving to win the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus, we are losing the battle on the home front.

The study does not include a state-by-state analysis, but there is certainly no reason to believe the situation is any different in Mississippi. Anyone who has lately canvassed a neighborhood or made telephone calls inviting people to visit their church has found this to largely be the case.

A minister recently recounted a visit he made to an unchurched family's home, where each family member called up their smartphone calendars and compared engagements as they attempted to settle on a Sunday they could all come to church. Sadly,

#### Trends in Religious Disaffiliation, by Demographic Groups

% who describe themselves as religiously unaffiliated among ...	2007		2012	Change
	%	%		
<b>U.S. general public</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>19.6</b>		<b>+4.3</b>
Men	18	23		+5
Women	13	17		+4
White	15	20		+5
Black	13	15		+2
Hispanic	16	16		--
College grad+	17	21		+4
College grad	15	22		+7
Post-grad	19	20		+1
Some college or less	15	19		+4
\$75,000+	16	21		+5
\$30,000-\$74,999	15	20		+5
<\$30,000	17	20		+3
Married	14	14		--
Not married	20	24		+4
Northeast	15	21		+6
Midwest	15	19		+4
South	12	15		+3
West	21	26		+5

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007 and 2012. Hispanic figures based only on surveys that included Spanish interviewing. Changes that are statistically significant are shown in bold.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

religion for many modern Mississippians has become nothing more than another "engagement" on their social calendar that possesses no more importance — and in many cases, less importance — than a ball game, business function, or dinner with friends.

One of the main goals of war planning is to destroy the enemy's support base. We know, without a shadow of a doubt, that Satan is waging constant war against Christians and would like nothing better than to destroy his enemy's critically-important base in America. We also know that the evil one will not rest until he has achieved total victory in this regard.

The question is, will we let him?

**Editor's note:** According to its web site, The Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affair by conducting surveys, demographic analyses, and other social science research on religion and public life. For footnotes, source citations, and study parameters, visit <http://www.pewforum.org/Unaffiliated/nones-on-the-rise.aspx>.

## The fatwa against free speech

Part 1 of 2

The cascading crisis involving derogatory depictions of Islam's prophet Muhammad by amateur American filmmakers and French satirists has reinvigorated a 20-year-old demand from the Muslim world for a Western crackdown on free speech.

This demand has been made by Egypt's Salafist Nour party, by Iran's theocrats, by Hezbollah, and, not least, by the al-Qaeda-linked groups that on Sept. 11 and the days immediately following attacked and rioted against our embassies and interests in two dozen Muslim countries, killing Ambassador Chris Stevens and 51 others and injuring hundreds. It is also being pressed on the diplomatic front by Muslim governments allied to the U.S.

Without doubt, the uproar over the 12-minute video, *Innocence of Muslims*, is the result of ulterior motives and political manipulations as Islamists jockey for power. Nevertheless, and not for the first time, large populations have been incited to violence by these cynical and opportunistic forces. It is important to respond in a principled and coherent way.

The Islamist demand for a global curb to free speech first burst upon the scene in 1989 when Salman Rushdie was condemned to death by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini (whose fatwa was bolstered with a decidedly worldly bounty, recently increased by \$500,000, to \$3.3 million). Its most recent diplomatic articulation came on Sept. 20, from Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Turkish secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), a Saudi-based group of 56 member states. Calling for "an international code of conduct for media and social media to disallow the dissemination of incitement material," Ihsanoglu said the international community should "come out of hiding from behind the excuse of freedom of expression."

The United States has never offered a sustained defense of free expression in response to such demands, and has even signaled to the Muslim world that it is willing to restrict speech. Under the Clinton administration, the U.S. joined the OIC in a non-binding U.N. resolution calling for a universal ban on the "defamation of religion." The Bush administration broke that consensus but made no attempt to lobby against the resolution, which the U.N. continued to adopt annually



### Guest opinion

with Nina Shea

for a decade. Nor did it try to explain the importance of individual freedoms of speech and religion when they were under assault during worldwide Muslim rioting — in 2005 against Danish cartoons depicting Mohammed and in 2006 against Pope Benedict's Regensburg speech, which included a quote linking Islam to violence.

The Obama administration has at times acclaimed free speech, as President Obama did in his recent address to the U.N. General Assembly, but it has also joined in U.N. calls for religious-hate-speech codes and left the impression that the First Amendment is out of step with international human-rights standards. In his 2009 Cairo speech, President Obama pledged to fight anti-Islamic "stereotyping," and in 2011 Secretary of State Hillary Clinton followed up on this promise with her proposal for a series of conferences with the OIC to develop "implementation" measures for this fight.

Last month, the administration (unsuccessfully) asked Google to remove the Muhammad video from YouTube, which Google owns, and dispatched the FBI to investigate whether the video's principal maker could be arrested or a technicality. It also, and not for the first time, deployed top military brass to personally try to silence micro-church pastor Terry Jones, who had praised the video. On the anniversary of 9/11, four hours before the violence erupted, the U.S. embassy in Cairo posted on its website a statement echoing the OIC and suggesting that by hurting Muslims' religious feelings, the video was an "abuse [of] the universal right to free speech."

We need to take stock of what is really being asked of us. It is not a small thing. This is not about offending people. The Saudi ministry of education has no compunction about teaching that Jews are "apes" and Christians are "pigs." Egypt's law banning "insult to

see SHEA on p. 6

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BAPTISTS

VOLUME 136 • NUMBER 40 • ISSN-0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadline: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.



# Pastors' poll: leave political endorsements out of pulpit

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Nearly 90% of pastors believe they should not endorse candidates for public office from the pulpit, according to a survey by LifeWay Research. The survey, released Oct. 1, also revealed that 44% of pastors personally endorsed candidates but did so outside of their church role.

The survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors found that only 10% believe pastors should endorse candidates from the pulpit. Eighty-seven percent believe (71% percent strongly and 16% somewhat) pastors should not endorse candidates for public office from the pulpit. Three percent of pastors are not sure.

For comparison, LifeWay Research found in a December 2010 survey that 84% of pastors said they should not endorse candidates from the pulpit.

Slight differences emerged between pastors who consider themselves "evangelical" and those who self-identify as "mainline." Eighty-six percent of evangelical pastors believe pastors should not endorse a candidate from the pulpit, as compared to 91% of mainline pastors.

The number of pastors who say they should not endorse candidates from the pulpit also varies according to political affiliation. Among pastors who call themselves Democrats, 98% believe political endorsements should not be made from the pulpit compared to 90% of Independents and 82% of Republicans.

The results of the survey come just prior to the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) Pulpit Freedom Sunday on Oct. 7. The alliance encourages pastors to challenge the IRS ban on political endorsements from the pulpit by comparing the positions of candidates from a biblical perspective. ADF has held Pulpit Freedom Sunday every year since 2008.

"Previous research has shown that pastors believe the government has no place in determining what is and is not said from their pulpits regarding candidates," Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research, said. "Yet most pastors don't believe endorsement of candidates should be made from the pulpit."

An amendment to the IRS tax code in 1954 prohibits tax-exempt organizations, such as churches, from endorsing political candidates for public office. According to the IRS, "violation of this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise tax."

ADF believes the law violates the First Amendment. ADF wants to challenge the law in court but wants the IRS to initiate the action — something the IRS has yet to do in the five previous years of Pulpit Freedom Sunday.

The LifeWay Research survey also found that less than half of Protestant pastors (44%) personally endorsed candidates this year outside of their church role. Fifty-two percent say they disagree with the statement, "I personally endorsed candidates for public office this year, but only outside of my church role."

McConnell noted that only one-third of pastors strongly disagree that they have endorsed candidates outside of their church role. "Clearly most pastors have opinions on who the best candidates are, and those convictions may be heavily dependent on biblical principles," he said. "However, very few pastors choose to make those endorsements from the pulpit."

Pastors of churches with less than 50 members are the most likely at 56% to say they had personally endorsed candidates

for public office outside of their church role. Pastors in small cities (49%) are more likely to say they had endorsed candidates outside of their church role than pastors in large cities (33%).

While there are no differences between evangelicals and mainline pastors, differences emerged among party affiliation. Self-described Independents (34%) are least likely to say they endorsed candidates outside their church role compared to Republicans (51%) and Democrats (54%).

## Current presidential campaign

While there has been much talk about the beliefs of both presidential candidates during the current campaign, few pastors believe there has been too much focus on religion. The survey revealed only 17% of pastors believe the election cycle has been too religious compared to 77% who say it has not been too religious and five percent who are not sure.

"Pastors do not see the election as a referendum on religion in the U.S.," McConnell said. "In fact, very few pastors believe this election cycle has been very religious at all."

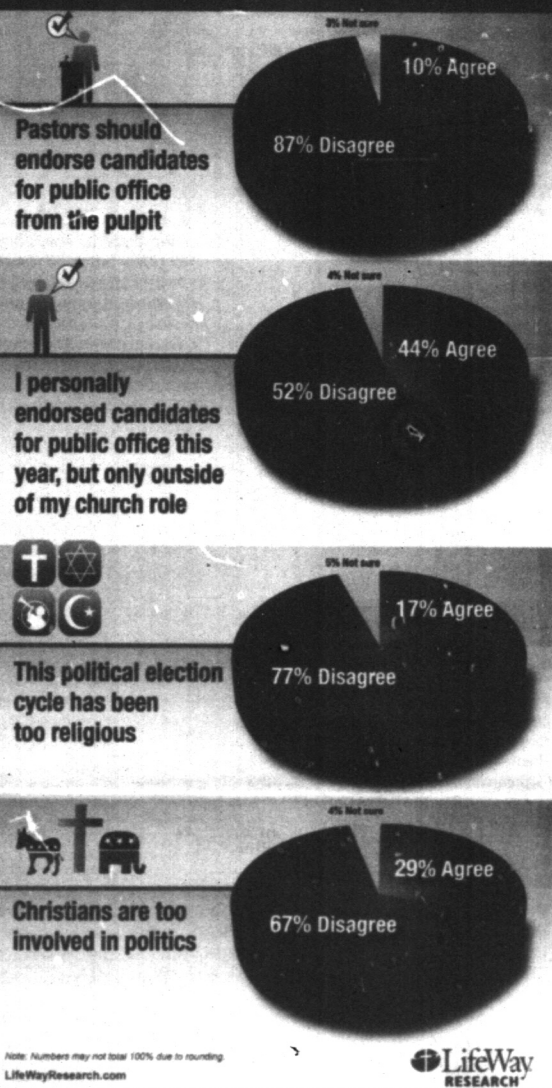
Party affiliations again reveal differences in opinion on this issue. Among pastors who call themselves Republican, only nine percent believe the election cycle has been too religious, as compared to 20% of Independents and 39% of Democrats.

Also, mainline pastors at 22% are more likely to believe the election cycle has been too religious, compared to 14% of evangelical pastors.

The survey of Protestant pastors was conducted in May of this year.

Survey of Protestant Pastors

## Pastors & Politics



## ERLC presidential search committee announces qualifications, web site

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — The trustee search committee for a new president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) has launched a website to aid in identifying a candidate for the position.

The SBC entity addresses moral, ethical, and religious liberty issues from a biblical perspective from its offices in Nashville and Washington, D.C. Richard Land, who has led the ERLC since 1988, has announced his retirement effective Oct. 23, 2013.

The website, [erlc.com/presidential-search](http://erlc.com/presidential-search), features pages dedicated to an outline of the attributes ERLC trustees are seeking in a candidate and a prayer guide for the committee's work. The site also is the only way by which interest in the ERLC presidency can be communicated to the trustee search committee.

The committee expects a candidate to

"demonstrate a commitment to applying Biblical principles and Gospel understanding to critical ethical concerns of our time" and asks Southern Baptists to pray "that the hearts and minds of search committee members be open to the guiding of the Holy Spirit."

Barry Creamer, who heads the ERLC trustee search committee, announced the site Oct. 1. Creamer is vice president of academic affairs and professor of humanities at Criswell College in Dallas.

The committee will accept curriculum vitae through a portal on the website from prospective candidates through Oct. 31. "The search committee is not looking merely for the person with the best resume," Creamer explained. "We are pursuing God's will for the person we should recommend to the ERLC board as the next president."

Creamer said prayer has undergirded

the committee's actions from the beginning. "Our focus has been to pray for God's direction throughout the search process and to develop a practical and prudent process," he said, adding that the posting of the prayer guide is a "very important reminder of our responsibility not to become pragmatic in our process, but to seek God's leadership."

Creamer said the presidential search committee has been "on task" and "active every week" since being appointed in August after Land's retirement announcement in late July.

The characteristics spelled out in the website's presidential profile "are, for the most part, non-negotiable," Creamer said, noting, "Compromise on the profile is not likely."

According to the committee's website, the individual who would be considered for the ERLC's chief executive position

should have "significant education in and demonstrated understanding" of ethics, philosophy, and history, among other academic disciplines, and "be able to comprehend complex and significant ethical issues quickly and respond to them succinctly."

The site suggests a candidate should be "characterized by the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3, personally above reproach, with a life characterized by ministry and a demonstrated commitment to the local church and to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Land, in announcing his decision to leave the commission, indicated he is not retiring from ministry, writing, "When God called me into His ministry a half-century ago, He put no time limit on that service. It was, and is, a lifetime calling." The Texas native soon will begin his 50th year of ministry, having begun preaching as a 16-year-old in Houston.

The 177th gathering of Baptists from across Mississippi for the Mississippi Baptist Convention is right at hand on October 30-31 at First Baptist Church Jackson. I love the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and I love this gathering in the fall. I do not know when it was or what took place at the very first Convention that I ever attended because as a youngster growing up there were occasions that I attended part of the Convention with my mom and dad. I did not know that it was a Convention. I thought that we were just going to church with a lot of folks across the state. I do remember the first Convention that I attended as a young pastor. I was wide-eyed, excited, and thrilled to see folks that I knew and amazed to see people that I admired. There were a few Mississippi Baptist Conventions that I missed because I was a pastor in another state, but when I was not here I was wishing that I was and every time that I have been here I was glad that I was.

Every year and I don't know how many years it has been, but I hear people say, "I believe that was the best Convention that we have ever had." Once when that comment was made a person asked me, "Do you know why they say that?" I said, "I guess they think that is what the reality is." He said, "No, it was the latest Convention, the one that they remember the best, and so they think it is the best." Maybe and maybe not, but I do know this that through the years the Lord has done some wonderful things both in our Convention meetings



## Convention Encouragement

and also in the depths of my own soul. So I am thankful that almost 200 years ago Baptists began to realize that they needed to try to get together because we are a whole lot better together and great things can be done through our unified efforts. That is true with the upcoming Convention and I hope that you will make plans to attend.

**The Convention is about information.** We try not to just have boring reports and uninteresting stats, but it is a great time to receive information about what you are doing both in Mississippi, across the nation, and around the world. It is not a report on what I am doing or the staff at the Convention Board is doing, but it is about what our churches are doing and

what we are accomplishing together. Just the information of what is taking place among us is a God touched narrative in itself.

**Secondly, the Convention is about inspiration.** I have never, not once, been a part of a Convention here in our state that there were not people there who were just about at the end of their road and the load they were carrying was just about to crush them. The meeting with God and His people always changes things. It changes not only how they feel and how they view their work, but it changes their heart's desire to give their best in their field of service.

You may feel as though the Convention does not need you. Or flip that around, and you may feel as though you do not need the

Convention. I want to suggest to you that you are wrong in both feelings. We do need you and look forward to seeing you. You do need the family of faith and your heart can be encouraged by them. Let us join together and experience the wonder of our living, loving Lord at the Convention.

**Finally, I would suggest to you that the Convention is an experience of invitation.** Invariably, there are those moments throughout the Convention maybe during a sermon or possibly even during a report when God Himself says, "I have a fresh thing for you, a new work, an encouraging idea, and a new relationship." God invites us to continue the journey with Him in a new and fresh way. I hope that you will come praying and expecting to meet with God and hear Him invite you to a new and brighter walk.

Pray for those who will be leading in worship, giving reports, for Dr. Jim Phillips as he preaches the Convention sermon, and for our two presidents — Dr. David Hamilton, the president of Mississippi Baptists, and for Dr. Fred Luter, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as they will be preaching. Pray for Dr. Jeff Iorg, who will be sharing our Bible Treasures. I look forward to seeing you, and I pray that when we leave this 177th Annual Convention of Mississippi Baptists that everyone of us will feel like that was the best Convention that we have ever had. To God be the glory!

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

### Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are

not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

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KRLU BSS QCR. INC SUTA VO BL NBRA.

YNVSYYVBRO EUKT: EUKT

Clue: Y = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Galatians Four: Four

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## MS POSITIONS

HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS, IS LOOKING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. Will be responsible for Sunday morning and evening worship. If interested, please email a resume to [hebronbaptist@bellsouth.net](mailto:hebronbaptist@bellsouth.net) or mail to Music Search Committee, 4795 Vivian Causeway Rd, Meridian, MS 39301.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST PT. FOR CHURCH: 20 HRS WK. Bookkeeping exp., computer literate, Microsoft Office, Excel. Ability to prioritize & meet deadlines. Send resume to: 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301 or call Marvin Cooper 601-644-9194

WALTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH (WEBSTER CO) IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. If interested you can: Phone: 662-258-3259. Email: [mwarrage@yahoo.com](mailto:mwarrage@yahoo.com). Send resume to: Waltham Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Waltham, MS 39771

PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL "ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ YOUTH MINISTER". Please send resume to Pine Grove Baptist Church, 124 Gather Johnson Rd., Magee, MS 39111.

THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE OF STAR BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME WORSHIP LEADER. Please send them to [starbaptistresumes@gmail.com](mailto:starbaptistresumes@gmail.com)

TUSCUMBIA BAPTIST CHURCH, BOONEVILLE, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC AND YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to: Tuscumbia Baptist Church Search Committee, 1008 Jacinto Road, Booneville, MS 38829 or emailed to [harr32@hotmail.com](mailto:harr32@hotmail.com)

TILLATOBA BAPTIST CHURCH, TILLATOBA, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Interested parties may mail resumes to: Tillatoba Baptist Church, Attn: Youth Minister Search Committee, P.O. Box 101, Tillatoba, MS 38961.

GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, MS, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to [gunterroad@gmail.com](mailto:gunterroad@gmail.com). If mailing please send to 2240 Almar Rd. Florence, MS 39073. Attn: Mrs. Allen

CORNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, A MEMBER OF THE UNION COUNTY ASSOCIATION, LOCATED ON THE UNION & MARSHALL COUNTY LINE, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Resumes may be mailed to Cornersville Baptist Church, C/O L.A. Rhea, 1114 CR 1, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

THE TRI-COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Resumes may be sent to [tricountyexec@gmail.com](mailto:tricountyexec@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 350, Columbia, MS 39429.

## CLASSIFIEDS

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by! Hymns, Gospel, Christmas, Choruses, etc. - Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800. FREE DEMO! [www.wsrpianocds.com](http://www.wsrpianocds.com)

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 11, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2013

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C=Church U=Office
<b>Thursday, January 24, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>			
Area 2	Calvary BC, 501 W. Main St. Tupelo, 38804	Doug Spires	(C) 662-842-3338
Area 3	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave. McComb, 39648	Jane Wilkinson	(C) 601-684-2971
Area 3	FBC, 431 N. State St. Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South	(C) 601-292-3272 (C) 1-800-748-1651
Area 4	Poplar Springs Dr. BC 4032 Poplar Springs Dr. Meridian, 39305	Michael Gibson	(C) 601-485-5106
Area 5	Cartersville BC, 115 Cartersville Rd. Petal, 39465	Kris Smith	(C) 601-584-9457
Area 5	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave. Pascagoula, 39567	Michaelle Harrison	(C) 228-762-2343
Area 5	FBC, 607 W. 5th St. Laurel, 39440	Marilyn Huff	(H) 601-763-8731
<b>Friday, January 25, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>			
Area 1	Longview Heights BC 4501 Goodman Rd. Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates	(C) 662-895-1900
<b>Saturday, January 26, 2013 - 9:30 a.m. - noon</b>			
Area 1	FBC, 450 Faith Dr. Grenada, 38901	Andy Cummings	(C) 662-226-3661
Area 1	North Greenwood BC 615 Grand Blvd. Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Etheridge	(C) 662-453-2801

## Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend

April 6-7, 2013

First Baptist Church, Florence, Miss.

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir is an auditioned choir for students in grades 4-6 who love to sing and desire to participate in a weekend of arts and worship.

120 children, grades 4-6, will be chosen from all over Mississippi to participate in an Honor Choir Concert April 6, 2013, at First Baptist Church, Florence.

**Requirement:** Audition.

**COMING SOON:** Audition requirements and an Audition Form may be located (printed) at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

**Registration fee:** \$60 (NON REFUNDABLE) per accepted/registered choir member due no later than February 1, 2013.

**Registration Fee Includes:** All meals (students only)  
Snacks  
T-Shirt  
Concert Polo Shirt  
Music

**AUDITION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2012**

**More information:** Contact Wyndy South, Church Music Department, Choir Coordinator, [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org); 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272 statewide, or locally at 601-292-3272.

## ONE-DAY

## Stewardship REVIVAL

The one activity with the most potential for creating a culture of generosity in your congregation is a Stewardship Workshop.

Encourage your church to develop a culture of generosity through faithful discipleship.

For more information contact the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601.292.3347.

## AMD & Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Baptist Building Chapel

In order that we might preprepare, please notify Keith Gordon, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, 601-292-3307, or [kgordon@mbcb.org](mailto:kgordon@mbcb.org) if you will attend. Wives are also invited.



## THROUGH THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT JOY

On November 5, 2012, Baptist women from around the world will come together to study God's Word, pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ. The focus this year is on the fruit of the Spirit. JOY.

For more information visit [www.bwawd.org](http://www.bwawd.org)

Mississippi Baptist Student Missions 2013

# see. hear. go.

For we cannot help but speak about  
things we have seen and heard  
- Acts 1:8



[www.missionsnow.net](http://www.missionsnow.net)

## Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Council Meeting & Banquet

**Monday, October 29, 2012**

Bivo/Small Church Area Coordinators Meeting  
Baptist Building Sky Room  
4th Floor, 1:30 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Council Meeting  
Baptist Building Sky Room  
4th Floor, 3:00 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet  
Fellowship Hall West, First Baptist Church,  
Jackson, 5:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION.** We will  
join the Acts 1:8 Celebration Dinner.

\*Please Register before October 16, so we will have a meal  
for you.

Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development  
Dept. to make reservations; 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,  
601-292-3305 or [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org)

## OVERNIGHT TRAIL RIDE

**Central Hills Retreat  
November 9-10, 2012**

**Cost: \$45 per person  
(includes room or RV hookup,  
3 meals, insurance)**

**BYOH (bring your own horse)  
Up-to-date Coggins required**

**Time:** Arrive after 3 on Friday, November 9  
Dinner and activities begin at 6  
Breakfast at 8 on Saturday morning  
Ride begins at 9:30 and lasts until noon  
Lunch at noon on Saturday

**Local riders are invited to ride on Saturday morning. Cost: \$15  
(includes lunch)**

For more information contact: **Don Lum** at 601-292-3280, **David  
Hamilton** at 662-489-1200, or **Jim Ray** at 662-289-9730

## BE THE ONE

**Speakers:**  
Gary Permenter &  
Bryant Bush

**Music:**  
Bethany Barr-Phillips

**Special Appearance:**  
Tino Wallenda

**December 27-28, 2012  
Mississippi College, Clinton**

**Registration begins Thursday  
Dec. 27, 1:30 p.m.  
Concludes Friday Dec. 28  
12:30 p.m.**

If you have any questions about YEC 2012, please contact us at  
601-292-3278 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail [jellis@mbcb.org](mailto:jellis@mbcb.org).

## Garaywa Day Camp

**JULY 1-3, 2013, 9:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.**

**FOR BOYS & GIRLS 1ST - 6TH GRADE  
COST: \$20 PER CHILD PER DAY**

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- BIBLE STUDY
- CRAFTS
- SWIMMING
- RECREATION
- ROPES COURSE
- MISSIONARY VISIT

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
601-924-7034 [KREDDITT@GARAYWA.ORG](mailto:KREDDITT@GARAYWA.ORG)  
[WWW.GARAYWA.ORG](http://WWW.GARAYWA.ORG)



# ABIDE

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2012  
LAKE TIAK OKHATA LOUISVILLE



Featured Speaker  
**Stuart Hall**

Student ministry is exhausting. It is easy to become exhausted physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually wiped out. The Mississippi Baptist Student Ministers' Retreat offers a time of spiritual nourishment, renewal, and the opportunity to sharpen our ministry skills.

## NO COST

### Registration required

- 1-Register online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org), look for the Student Ministers' Retreat link near the bottom of the home page.
- 2-Make reservations directly with Lake Tiaik O'Khata if you are staying at the hotel. Lodging/Meal Package can be found under the same link as above.

\*Information available for the economical bunkhouse option.

Retreat Schedule found under the same link on [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

Contact: Ken Hall, [khall@mbcb.org](mailto:khall@mbcb.org)

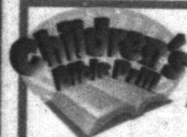
(800) 748-1651, ext. 286, or

Rene Edwards, [redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org)

(800) 748-1651, ext. 283

Worship Leader  
**Bethany Barr Phillips**

Breakout  
Conference Speaker  
**Hal Shelby**



## ATTENTION:



Please note change in location for the April 11 State Bible Drill. Brookhaven Drill changed to First Baptist Church, McComb. See you either at McComb or Batesville if you drill on the 11th.



## MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

October 29, 2012

1:30 - Registration

1:50 - Conference

FBC, Jackson

Christian Life Center Dining Room

Guest Speaker:

**Janie Walters**

"Blow a Bubble Not a Gasket"

First Baptist Church, Jackson, Christian Life Center (CLC), Dining Room, 2nd floor.

Ministers' wives are encouraged to join us as author and speaker Janie Walters speaks on "101 ways to reduce stress and add fun to your life."

Preregistration is encouraged so we can be better prepared. Contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for registration information.

1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or 601-292-3305

[cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org)

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

# unexpected

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- Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps
- College Outreach
- Criminal Justice Ministry
- New Church Starts
- Central Hills Campgrounds
- Community Mission Projects
- Camp Garaywa
- Port Ministries
- Cross Cultural Evangelism
- Disaster Relief
- Language/Deaf Ministry
- Mission Volunteers

## \$2 MILLION GOAL

Pray this day for...

October 11 – October 24, 2012

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*  
-Matthew 11:28

Pray for: **Donald\* and Teresa\* Bolls**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through agriculture and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Matthew\* and Megan\* Brewer**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of seven from **New Zion BC, Crystal Springs**, as they travel to South Asia, October 15-26.

Pray for: **Kaye\* Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples in Chile through church planting.

Pray for a team of four from **North Oxford BC**, going to Vermont on a "vision journey" October 17-20.

Pray for: **John and Claudia\* Brown**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Malawi through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald\* and Donna\* Brown**, missionaries to European Peoples in Romania through church planting and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David and Pamela\* Carlton**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for a team of three from **Mt. Pisgah BC, Eugene**, as they travel to East Asia for a church crusade, October 21-November 3.

Pray for a team of six from **Tri-County BA** traveling to Southeast Asia for evangelism, October 22-November 3.

Pray for a team of 10 from **Missions Mobilization** traveling to South Asia for construction, October 23-November 3.

Pray for: **Richard\* and Wanda Clark**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through strategy coordination.

\*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

## Mother/Daughter Overnight at Garaywa

1st-6th grade girls and their moms will spend quiet time together, worship & praise, meet missionaries, make crafts and more! Join the fun and fellowship this fall.

October 12-13

All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost: \$50 per person

Visit: [www.garaywa.org](http://www.garaywa.org) under EVENTS, Mother/Daughter Overnight, for Registration Forms.



**WorldCrafts** is a ministry of WMU that provides artisans from all over the world an opportunity to provide food, clothing, housing, education, and medical care for their families. For more information on WorldCrafts or for help planning

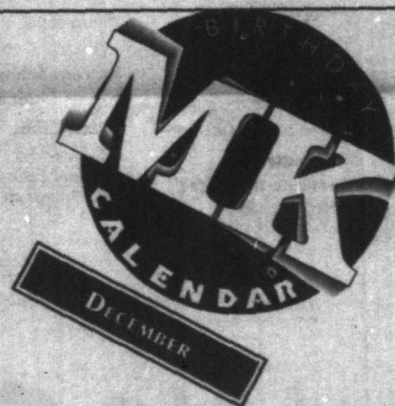
your event, please contact: **Tammy Anderson** in the Mississippi WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323, or [tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org)).

12/21/06  
**MISS ELIZABETH ANN M.**  
Parents: C & A  
Restricted

12/28/05  
**MR ZACHARY**  
Parents: D & D  
Restricted

12/29/92  
**MISS LAURA LITTLE**  
Parents: Bob & Amy  
West Africa

12/30/92  
**MR BENJAMIN AUSTIN**  
Parents: Arnold & Susie  
South American Peoples



Encourage an MK with a card!

**FOR SECURITY**, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

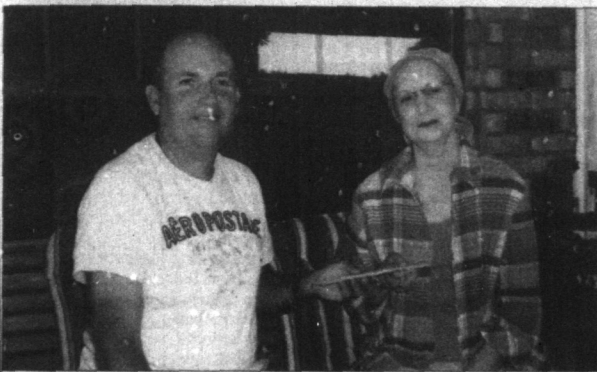
Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



# HOUSE TOPS



## Just for the Record



**FREEDOM CHURCH, LAUREL**, gave its VBS love offering in the amount of \$1400 to Faye Pearson. Pearson served as missionary to China beginning in 1968. Shown is Rickey Barrett and Pearson.



**CARMEL CHURCH, MERIDIAN**, ordained Charlie Peterson and Bruce Griffin as deacons Sept. 23. Shown are Larry Whitehead, Peterson, Griffin, and pastor Joe Anderson.

The RAs, GAs, and youth of **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, recently cleaned up the yards of widows in the church. Shown are the participants.



**MALMAISON CHURCH, CARROLLTON**, recognized Jo Annette Ellis Wiggins Sept. 20 for 50 years of teaching Sunday School with four and five-year-old children. Shown is pastor Eddie Carpenter and Wiggins.



**WALNUT GROVE CHURCH, WALNUT GROVE**, ordained Michael Putnam as deacon Sept. 30. Shown is Joe Abel, Denise Putnam, Putnam, and pastor Dave Dowdy.

The RAs of **HORTON MEMORIAL CHURCH, PONTOTOC COUNTY**, participated in Christmas in August. Debbie Hitchcock and Tabitha Dillard, leaders; Owen Hitchcock, pastor. Shown are the participants.



**FIRST CHURCH, SALTILLO**, ordained Clay McRae as deacon Sept. 30. Shown is McRae and pastor Ronnie Hatfield.



**FIRST CHURCH, TREMONT**, recognized Mary Ruth Yielding for 55 years of service to the church. She has served as church clerk, ladies' Sunday School teacher, and WMU director.



**CORINTH CHURCH, LEAKE COUNTY**, participated in Christmas in August. Shown are the children participating.

# Bivo music course now enrolling

**JACKSON, Ms. (Special)** — October marks the beginning of the sixth of eight courses for bivocational music directors and others music leaders, offered at seven locations in Mississippi sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in cooperation with the Providence Learning Center of New Orleans Seminary.

Music Administration/Staff Relations will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks (Starkville and Brookhaven locations meet on Saturday) at the following locations and times:

■ First Church, Cleveland — beginning October 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Alan Berry, teacher. (662) 843-2701.

■ Northcrest Church — Meridian, beginning October 15 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher. (601) 938-8668.

■ Easthaven Church, Brookhaven — Nov. 3 & 10 (9:00

a.m.-5:00 p.m. with lunch break). Mark Hamilton, teacher. (601) 835-6607.

■ First Church, Starkville — Oct. 27 & Nov. 10 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. with lunch break). Tom Jenkins, teacher. (662) 323-5633.

■ First Church, Booneville — beginning Oct. 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher, (662) 728-6272.

■ Broadmoor Church, Madison — beginning Oct. 22 (6:00-8:00 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher. (601) 924-1233.

■ Handsboro Church, Gulfport — beginning Oct. 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Louis White, teacher, (228) 896-3796.

The eight courses are Song Leading; Worship Planning; Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; Songs and Hymns for Worship; Music Administration/Staff Relations; Survey of Church Music Resources; and Class Voice.

The cycle of courses is sched-

uled over a two-year period. In most locations the eight courses meet two hours per week with each course being eight weeks in length. Saturday locations may vary.

Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a certificate from the Providence Learning Center of New Orleans Seminary.

There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$100.00. A \$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible for the scholarship. The scholarship is limited to one person per church.

For more information, contact the teachers listed above or Slater Murphy, MBCB Church Music Director, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3276 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 276. E-mail: smurphy@mbcb.org.

## CWJC

cont. from p. 1

part through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. First Church, Richland, provides the facilities for the Rankin County CWJC.

Leath is the mother of two children with physical challenges. Her son has cerebral palsy and her daughter has epilepsy. She knew that in order to open a center to help other parents who have children with special needs, she would need to obtain her GED and a college education.

Help with obtaining her GED is what initially brought Leath to CWJC, but she found much more. "The Job Corps was like being with a room full of sisters," she said. "The ladies were uplifting and seemed interested in the vision I was dreaming."

"They helped me see God has His hands in this dream and that I am just a vessel for His hands to work."

Leath said while all the women in the program were influential on her journey, Mary Callahan, director of CWJC of Rankin County, had an impact on her the first time they met when Leath interviewed for the program.

"I sat and told her my story," Leath said. "With her uplifting spirit, I knew deep down that I was in the right place."

Callahan is a member of Briar Hill Church, Florence, and a Mission Service Corps worker.

Debbie Boykin, Leath's mentor in CWJC and a member of Mt. Zion Church, Florence, said Leath is determined to reach her goals and never complains about anything. "Bobbi has a passion and feels called to help other families that are facing the same challenges she has had to deal with," Boykin said. "I am so proud of her accomplishments so far and know she will reach all her goals."

Leath, who recently moved to Perkinston, said her life has changed in "big ways" since coming to CWJC. In addition to earning her GED, she has greater confidence in herself and a stronger relationship with God. "He is forever changing and molding me into the person He intended. I have completely let Him take the reins to guide me to do His work."

Since graduating from CWJC, Leath has enrolled at a local community college and is pursuing a degree in child development and child care. She obtained a 3.5 GPA in her first semester and is looking forward to her second semester.

Jean Roberson, national WMU ministry consultant who oversees the CWJC/CMJC ministry, presented Leath the Sybil Bentley Dove Award at the 2012 Mississippi WMU annual meeting. The award is given annu-

ally to a current or former CWJC participant who advances herself through life skills, academic development, and faith in God.

The award comes with a grant to help further Leath's education and dream.

To learn more about opportunities through CWJC/CMJC or to find a local CWJC/CMJC site, visit <http://www.wmu.com/Jobcorps>. In Mississippi, contact Tammy Anderson, WMU Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3323 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 323. E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

## SHEA

cont. from p.2

heavenly religions" does not stop Egyptian state media from denigrating Coptic Christians and promoting "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" [a discredited anti-Semitic booklet]. This is not even about offensive speech concerning Muslims. As Mohammed Bouyeri told a Dutch court during his trial for the murder of filmmaker Theo Van Gogh: "The story that I felt insulted as a Moroccan, or because he called me a goat-[expletive], that is all nonsense. I acted out of faith." In other words, he acted because he thought Islam was blasphemed when Van Gogh's film criticized the Quran's verses on women. Or, as Egypt's Grand Mufti Ali Gomaa put it in a Washington Post article about the recent YouTube video: "Insults against the Prophet are taken as more serious than insults against one's own parents and family, indeed than one's own self."

Whether the putative offense is called religious "defamation," "insult" or "incitement," the goal of the OIC and many Muslims is to universalize Muslim blasphemy codes. They will not be placated by hate-speech laws of the kind mandated within the European Union following the Danish cartoon crisis — laws that protect Muslims, but not Islam per se, from insult. Nor would simple bans against Quran-burning of the sort Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., proposed last year settle the matter.

What is being demanded is sweeping censorship, cover-

ing all that has been asserted as truth in the Quran, in thousands of other Islamic texts called "hadiths," and in other Islamic sources over 1,300 years.

Most Muslim countries have such laws, but their application varies over time and from place to place. Traditional punishments for blasphemy include the death penalty, which is still applied by Iran and Pakistan. Frequently, it is dissidents and religious minorities who are targeted for prosecution. Where control is loose, the accused, even if acquitted, are also vulnerable to attacks by vigilantes who often operate with impunity. For example, no one has been arrested for the March 2011 murder of Pakistani cabinet minister Shahbaz Bhatti, who had criticized Islamic blasphemy laws.

Shea, an international human rights lawyer, is director of the Center for Religious Freedom and a Senior Fellow at Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. Since 1999, Shea has served as a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. This article first appeared in *National Review*, online at [www.nationalreview.com](http://www.nationalreview.com). Used by permission. Reprinted here courtesy of Baptist Press.

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## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)  
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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*ABCHomes*  
seeks servant-minded people who are called to ministry, not just a job!

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes is seeking **houseparent couples** for the Baptist Home, Monticello, Ark; and Boys Ranch, Harrison, Ark.

These full-time positions include salary, insurance, life insurance and paid leave. Contact: Children's Home, Randy Luper 870.367.5358 or [rluper@abchomes.org](mailto:rluper@abchomes.org); Boys Ranch, Bill VonderMehden 870.741.5784 or [bvondermehden@abchomes.org](mailto:bvondermehden@abchomes.org); ABCHomes is also seeking an **Area Director for the Fayetteville Area**.

**Office:** The full-time position will provide individual, marital and family counseling, as well as supervision of a small emergency shelter for abused, abandoned or neglected children. For information, contact Charles Flynn, 501.376.4791, ext. 5167 or [cflynn@abchomes.org](mailto:cflynn@abchomes.org).



# Living Without Fear • 1 Peter 3:13-22

Today's text continues the theme of living through difficult times. Christians in Peter's day suffered severe persecution for their faith, some even losing their lives. Even though we live in a nation with laws protecting Christians from physical harm, and a majority of our citizens claim to be Christians, we will face forms of the same struggles faced by the early Christians. Peter wrote to encourage them and us to live in faith and not in fear. Prayerfully apply the lessons of this passage to your own life as you read it today.

## 1. THE ASSUMPTION

**"Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?" (v. 13, NIV)**

Common sense and human decency says that no one would do harm to an innocent person. No one will bother you if you don't bother them. Most people would think that way. We treat others the way we want to be treated, and we expect others to treat us the way we treat them.

## 2. THE REALITY

**"But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed." (v. 14, NIV)**

Everyone doesn't follow common sense and human decency. Everyone won't treat you the way you treat them. Why would

anyone persecute anyone "because" they are doing right?

John 3:19-21 (NIV) says, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." There it is. A person will persecute an innocent person because the light of the innocent person's life is exposing the darkness of the persecutor's life. To make himself look good to others, a persecutor will malign an innocent person. This doesn't just happen in foreign countries or in Bible times — it happens in churches and in the world today.

## 3. THE COMMAND

**"Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." (v. 15, NIV)**

This verse is a quote of Isaiah 8:12. Isaiah went on in verse 13 to say, "The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard

as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread..."

Fear is a common human emotion, but Christians have to learn to fear God more than they fear men. Jesus said, "Don't fear him who can kill the body, but fear him who can kill the body and cast the soul into hell." Fear has prevented many a great work for God from taking place and cut many great works of God short. If Christians would do great exploits for God today, like them of old, we must learn to fear God only. Churches can't live in fear that someone may stop giving or stop coming if we do what God wants us to do. God is able to deal with those who oppose and persecute you. The command is to be faithful to Him and let Him deal with them.

## 4. THE CONSEQUENCE

**But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentle-**

**ness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander (v. 15-16, NIV).**

Bill Clinton was called "the Teflon president" because his opponents could not make any charges stick to him. I'm not suggesting that Christians should follow Bill Clinton's example. I am suggesting that Christians should strive to live in such a way that charges against them are not even believable. Verses 14-15 give four commands that will help Christians live without fear:

- **Make Jesus Lord of Your Life**
- **Be Prepared to Answer Critics**
- **Answer with a Gentle Spirit**
- **Keep a Clear Conscience**
- **Allow Persecutors to Be Ashamed of Themselves**

Most times, when good people see someone abusing someone else, they will step in to stop it. They will speak to the offender and show him the error of his ways. When he realizes the error of his ways he will be ashamed of himself.

Christian, don't live in fear, live in faith! Jesus died for us, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven and sits in power.

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

# From Failure to Direction • Gen. 15:4-6; 16:1-5; 17:3-6, 15-19

Genesis, book of origins, beginnings of the human race (known as God's chosen people), of sin, promise of redemption, of civilization, etc. Obedience is rewarded with blessings and harsh discipline meted out for disobedience. Much history here with deep spiritual applications. Accounts of human failure being met by God's salvation. Gen. 15:4-6. God gives Abram a specific promise of a son. Abraham fears no heir from him at all but God assures him there will be too many descendants to count. His spiritual seed would be as the stars of heaven. God points out the heirs he chooses, this one, and not this one.

V 6 gives us the oldest and most profound definition of faith. This may be the most important verse in the Old Testament because it tells us how to get to heaven. Do we have the divine righteousness required to get to heaven? We get it through faith (believing what God says) and God's response to our faith is He credits His righteousness to us. What a glorious plan.

Have we earned it? Can we earn it? Did Abram earn it? Abram simply believed God. As there were yet no laws, he was saved sola fide. Abraham is father of faith for Christians, Jews, and Muslims. We learn from the get go that the worth of our Holy Bible hinges on God's promises.

Abram's faith shows we can trust what-

ever God says. His faith test came when he was told to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abram turned his faith into a relationship of trusting God's words. Now he is understanding who God is. Heb. 11:6 (NIV Study Bible) "Without faith it is impossible to please God because we must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Never seek to help God fulfill His word, but keep on believing He is real.

Gen. 16:1-5 is mostly about an obscure Egyptian woman in Abram's family, Hagar, probably a maidservant, who became Abram's secondary wife. We learn of her "marriage" to Abram, her master, and misbehavior toward Sarai, her mistress, who also was the matchmaker in this scenario. Sarai's barrenness was the inducement of the alliance and herein was her argument with Abram to marry her maid.

Should Abram have kept to the rule of God's law in this situation rather than

bring ill for them all? All three were ill-served and discomfited. God chooses his own scripts and temptations come. Abram had not yet been told that his heir would be a son by Sarai. Our fleshly wisdom often moves us outside the protective hedge of God's wisdom and both sin and trouble flood our territory. There is nearly always help through counseling to prevent

our bad decisions. Prov. 19:20 (NIV Study Bible) says "Listen to advice and accept instruction and in the

end you will be wise."

Upon the news of Hagar's conception, Sarah is immediately despised and provoked. Hagar looks scornfully upon her mistress, insults her and decides she is probably a better woman than Sarai. Abram is put upon by Sarai and sees no peace. In V 5 Sarai appeals to God with hostility to "judge between me and thee", as though she bore no blame. Rash impre-

cations usually speak of guilt. Hagar runs away from it all, the wrong she did to her mistress and to her master. An encounter with an angel turned her away from Egypt and counseled her to go home and humble herself. She was to have a son to be named Ishmael.

Chapt. 17:3-6, 15-19 - The covenant, walk before me and be perfect, (that is, upright, with integrity) between me, Jehovah, father of mercies, and you, pious Abraham, father of the faithful. His name was changed and Abraham was given the promise of Canaan. While listening to God Abraham properly fell on his face in adoration.

Sarai's name is changed to Sarah and the promise comes to bless her with a son to be named Isaac. The timing for the birth of Isaac was the year following and then God went up from Abraham but He remembered Ishmael with a blessing of fruitfulness. Abraham remembered Ishmael as well. It should be the utmost desire of every parent that our children live before God, covenantally, and walk before him as instructed. God uses whom he pleases according to the pleasure of his will. He is God and we're not.

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.

## Bible Studies for Life

with Evelyn Gibson



## CP

cont. from p. 1

through a single contribution. Monies include receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for

distribution according to the 2011-12 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

The budget outlook comes at a time when the Southern Baptist Convention is aiming to bolster CP in local churches. For the past two years, Page has challenged

Southern Baptist churches to increase their CP contributions by one percentage point of their budgets. The "1% Challenge." Page said, would generate an additional \$100 million for Kingdom work.

SBC President Fred Luter Jr.

is featured in a series of video messages addressed to state conventions, encouraging support of the 1% Challenge. "Imagine if we take on the 1% Challenge that's given to us by Dr. Frank Page, that each of our churches would give an additional one percent

[of their budgets] — \$100 million, imagine that," Luter has said. "One percent would equal over \$100 million to do the work that we've been challenged to do through the Great Commission by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

## Just for the Record



**FIRST CHURCH, WINONA**, recognized William Middleton as a lifetime deacon Sept. 23. Shown are Middleton, Nell Middleton, and pastor Chris Aldridge.



**HURRICANE CREEK CHURCH, SANDY HOOK**, recognized Sue Germany for 50 years of service as organist. Shown are Germany and pastor Curtis Roland.

### In other Church News:

► **Mesa Church, Tylertown**, is hosting a Fall Festival Oct. 27, 4-7 p.m., with cupcake wars, crafts, games, and other activities for all ages. Call (601) 876-0272 for more information.

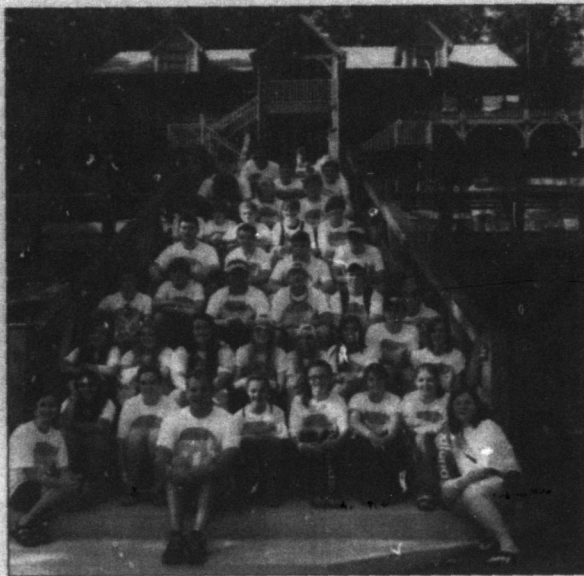
► **First Church, Fannin**, will be hosting a Harvest Festival Oct. 27, 4-7 p.m., with carnival games, inflatables, train rides, face painting, petting zoo, cupcake and cake walks, and story time. Free

refreshments. For more information, call (601) 829-1004.

► **First Church, Belzoni**, will host a WORLDCRAFTS bazaar and luncheon Oct. 27, 10 a.m. - noon. Betty Barham, Mission Service Corps Missionary, speaker.

► **Riverside Church, Money**, will be hosting a youth fest Oct. 28, 5 p.m.

► **First Church, Houlika**, will host Spoken 4 Quartet in concert Oct. 14, 10 a.m., followed by a covered dish fellowship.



Thirty-six youth from **HOLLY CHURCH, ALCORN**, attended summer youth camp at Woodlands in Cleveland, Tenn.

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## Revivals & Homecomings

► **McAdams Church, Salis**: Homecoming, Oct. 14; services, 10:15 a.m., with sharing, sanctuary renovation dedication, followed by covered dish lunch; Billy Thames, speaker; James Young, pastor.

► **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**: Homecoming, Oct. 14; special music, message, and lunch; David Perry, speaker.

► **Shelton Church, Moselle**: 105th homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship 10 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Paul Brashier, speaker; Jesse Smith, music; Charles O. Brady, pastor.

► **Harrisville Church, Harrisville**: Homecoming, Oct. 14; Bible study, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Eric McMahon, speaker; Andy Beasley, music.

► **Immanuel Church, Greenwood**: Annual Day, Oct. 14; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner.

► **First Church, Clara**: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Smith, speaking; Jim McEachern and local youth, music.

► **First Church, Ovett**: Revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Eddie Bryant, P.J. Weeks, Robby Johnson, Pavel Urruchi, and Scott Stringer, speakers.

► **Siloam Church, Clay County**: Homecoming, Oct. 14; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Walter Simmons, speaker; Ralph Sparks, music.

► **First Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg**: Revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Step Martin, speaker; Price Harris, music; Jimmy Hill, pastor.

► **First Church, Holly Springs**: 175th anniversary, Oct. 21; former members and guests attending, please reply to (662) 252-2627 or fbc175@gmail.com.

► **Holly Springs Church, Foxworth**: Homecoming, Oct. 14; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and concert by Hosanna Quartet; Robert Sones, speaker; Ron Jordan, pastor.

► **Linwood Church, Union**: Homecoming, Oct. 14; singing, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Tommy Anderson, speaker; Mike Skinner, pastor.

► **Pearl Valley Church, Wesson**: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 14-17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Andy Fullington, speaker.

► **Spring Hill Church, Waterford**: Homecoming, Oct. 14; music with Souls 4 Christ, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Paul Middleton, speaker; John Parker, pastor.

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